

EXHIBIT 4
DATE 3/19/11
HB 161



MISSOULA CITY COUNCIL

435 RYMAN MISSOULA, MONTANA 59802-4297

March 17, 2011

The Honorable Terry Murphy, Chair
Senate Judiciary Committee
Montana State Legislature
Capitol Building
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Chairman Murphy and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee:

I'm writing today asking you to oppose House Bill 161, *Repeal Medical Marijuana Law*. We oppose HB 161 and believe that this bill clearly ignores the wishes of Missoula's, and Montana's, voters.

I-148, the initiative authorizing compassionate allowance for the use of marijuana for medicinal purposes, passed in Missoula County with 74% voter approval.

I-148 was approved by the voters of the City of Missoula by more than a 3 to 1 margin.

I-148 passed with 62% support statewide.

In spite of this overwhelming support, HB 161 would repeal I-148.

In reverent respect for the citizens' initiative process guaranteed in the Montana Constitution, the state legislature has never repealed a citizens' initiative.

The Missoula City Council hadn't intended to get involved in HB 161; however, an employee of the City of Missoula, in his official capacity, testified in support of HB 161. Because of that, we find it necessary to make it clear that of the 12 elected Members of the Missoula City Council, 9 have no desire to overturn the overwhelmingly expressed will of Missoula's, or of Montana's, voters. Additionally, although 1 Member was absent and 2 Members chose to abstain from voting, no Member of the Missoula City Council chose to oppose the position we've taken against HB 161's intended overturn of I-148.

While the Missoula City Council opposes HB 161, we recognize that reform of marijuana regulation is required, and we encourage reform to the extent it does not interfere with access to medical marijuana which is legitimately authorized under I-148.

Please oppose HB 161.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. I appreciate your service to your constituents and the State of Montana. If I may address questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Ed Childers
President, Missoula City Council and other members including:
Dave Strohmaier and Jason Wiener, Ward 1; Pam Walzer and Cynthia Wolken, Ward 2;
Bob Jaffe and Stacy Rye, Ward 3; Jon Wilkins, Ward 4; Marilyn Marler, Ward 6

cc: Missoula Delegation
Montana League of Cities and Towns
Gallatin Public Affairs